

REMARKS

Claims 9-15 are pending in this application, of which claims 9 and 12 are independent. Claims 1-8 were previously canceled. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of the previous objections to the drawings, specification and claims, and the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims to address various alleged informalities and to place the claims in a more suitable U.S. format. No new matter has been added.

Allowance of claims 9-15 is respectfully requested.

New Drawing Objection

The drawings were objected to because they allegedly fail to comply with 37 CFR § 1.84(o). The Action asserts that this non-compliance arises because "[t]he specification should not be needed in order to understand the figures." Action at page 2, paragraph 3. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection.

The cited CFR section does not include the requirement stated above. Applicants conducted a thorough search of the MPEP, CFR and USC to find the source of the alleged requirement that "[t]he specification should not be needed in order to understand the figures." Applicants respectfully submit that support for such a requirement does not exist and request withdrawal of this objection.

The objection to the drawings is overly vague and therefore constitutes a failure by the Examiner to expeditiously provide information necessary to resolve issues. Such a vague objection needlessly encourages piecemeal prosecution, which is to be avoided. See, MPEP § 707.07(g). Accordingly, in the event that the

Office maintains the drawing objection, Applicants request that the Office cite specific MPEP, CFR or USC sections that support the objection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,778,228 (Wei) and U.S. Patent No. 6,321,274 (Shakib). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wei, Shakib and U.S. Patent No. 7,130,890 (Kumar). Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wei, Shakib and U.S. Patent No. 6,578,113 (Krishnamurthy). Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wei, Shakib, Krishnamurthy and Kumar. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. For example, independent claims 9 and 12 recite features that are not disclosed in the documents relied upon by the Examiner.

Applicants' claim 9 recites, *inter alia*, an optimization layer implemented at the client in addition to local proxies. The claimed optimization layer is designed, for example, to carry out client-end optimization and to combine call groups. A general proxy is installed at the client to carry out grouped service calls, and to return response messages to the optimization layer. The optimization layer contains at least one cache, with whose aid service calls can be avoided or delayed. The optimization layer is configured to evaluate the response messages before passing the response messages to a client application via a local proxy.

Applicants respectfully submit that such features are neither disclosed nor suggested by Wei, Shakib or the other cited references, viewed alone or in combination.

For example, the Action points to nothing in the cited references that discloses Applicants' claim 9 feature of an optimization layer configured to evaluate response messages before passing the response messages to a client application via a local proxy. Indeed, there is no teaching or suggestion in any of the cited references for this claim feature. For example, the Examiner cites to the Wei and Shakib patents in rejecting claim 9. In citing Wei, the Examiner references remote objects provided as web services, client-end local proxies, a general service installed at the service provider and a general proxy installed at the client. In citing Shakib, the Examiner references an optimization layer containing a cache at the client end. None of these passages addresses an optimization layer configured to evaluate response messages before passing the response messages to a client application via a local proxy.

As such, claim 9 is allowable.

Claim 12 recites a similar feature. Namely, a feature of evaluating the responses in the optimization layer and passing the responses to at least one client application via the respective proxy. The Examiner's rejection of claim 12 relied upon the Wei, Shakib and Krishnamurthy patents. However, the Krishnamurthy patent does not address or overcome the deficiencies of the Wei and Shakib patents, and the Examiner cites no portion of the Krishnamurthy patent with regard to the above features.

As such, claim 12 is also allowable.

All of the remaining claims, which depend from claims 9 or 12 and add further distinguishing features, are also allowable.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in immediate condition for allowance and all pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any questions about this application, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

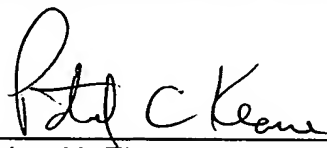
If additional fees are required for any reason, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-4800 the necessary amount.

Respectfully submitted,

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